



**Minutes of the General Meeting October 6, 2024**

Roma Hall, 940 Ewen Ave, New Westminster, BC

ATTENDEES: 11

Guests- Mike Roman, Jim Canil  
Langley Fermenters-Axel Kroitzsch  
VAWA- Larry McIntyre,  
Vinovan -Brian McConnell  
Saanich Sommeliers- Colin Nicholson (via telephone)  
President- Mike Leeper  
Past President/website- John McMaster  
Vice President- Joe Zucciatti  
Treasurer- John Matkovich  
Secretary/Vintners of Coquitlam- Roger Ford

**1) Welcome and Call to Order:** President Mike Leeper welcomed those in attendance and remarked how grape delivery often limits attendance at this time of year. He next extended thanks to Mike Roman for his assistance in acquiring Roma Hall as our venue. Mike also commented on the need to utilize either Zoom or What'sApp for people whose commitments prevent them from physically attending, and how recent changes in our by-laws allowed for this.

**2) Toast:** provided by Doug Martin of the Vintners of Coquitlam, the wine was a blend of Okanagan Merlot and Washington Cabernet. The toast was made by Roger Ford

“Nothing makes the future look so rosy as to contemplate it  
through a glass of Chambertin” - Napoleon

**3) Approval of Agenda:** moved – Brian McConnel, seconded-Larry McIntyre Motion passed

**4) Approval of March 10, 2024 Minutes:** moved- Axel seconded- Larry Motion passed

**5) Reports:**

**a) Treasurer** -John Matkovich (see attachment) commented on the good showing from the Saanich competition, which raised \$2800. Moved - Axel Kroitzsch seconded- Larry McIntyre  
Motion passed

**b) National Director:** Mike spoke of the efforts of Doug Markin in providing results of the AWC 2024 Competition. The report was slow in coming because it was all done manually. Some discussion arose regarding changing the name of the Amateur Winemakers of Canada to the **Artisan** Winemakers of Canada – a move which could entice new membership without necessitating a

change to the ANC moniker. Roger and Brian to work on a proposal to change the ANC name.  
Moved- Brian McConnel, seconded- Axel Kroitzsch Motion passed

**c) Guild Master-** William Huva announced that this year's schedule has been posted. A stable outlook is likely, and the Guild should break even.

**d) 2025 Provincial Competition by VAWA:** Larry McIntyre mentioned that a June date would facilitate the National competition and allow for VAWA to present a Gaeden Party/Competition.  
Moved- Larry McIntyre seconded- Axel Kroitzsch Motion passed

## **6) Unfinished Business:**

**a) 2024 BCWA Crush** – Jim Canil/Larry McIntyre – 3 ½ tons of Syrah from Meek Vineyard will soon be picked and available in 800-900 lb bins of whole grapes. YAN analysis will be done. Crusher will be available (at Roma Hall) at no extra cost, just let him know beforehand.

**c) 2024 Grape Procurement** – Jim Canil is acquiring Rob Martino's grape supply. Contact him if you're interested in any other Washington grapes.

**d) Guild of Wine Judges to create 1 day Wine Appreciation Workshops for early 2025:** dates tba as they become requested by member clubs. Mike asked Bill for a written synopsis.

**e) Maintenance of Website** - it needs refining/upgrading or a completely new system be devised. There was some discussion about contracting abroad for somebody to devise the 3 sites ( BCWA, AWC and Competition). John McMaster strongly advised that the site would be better served in the long term, by some person/provider in our time zone. This will likely need to be a paid position.

## **New Business**

**a) Motion re: BC Guild Of Wine Judges** (refer to the lengthy preamble in the agenda).

**Synopsis:** Attracting and training new members, and keeping all members current is a major expense for the Guild and is an ongoing challenge. We support the Guild and feel that it's not unreasonable to offset some of these expenses by creating some revenue for the Guild which is based on the services provided, namely judging competition entries.

**Motion:** A fee of \$1.00 for each entry judged in a competition be assessed and paid to the BC Guild of Wine Judges. Moved-Larry McIntyre seconded- Axel Kroitzsch Motion passed

**b) Next Meeting in 2025:** Sunday, March 9 at Roma Hall

**8) Next Toast:** VAWA

## **9) Town Hall Session**

**a) Dwindling Club Members:** it was agreed unanimously that the bulk of the meeting's discussion had centered on this issue.

**10) Announcements:** Axel noted that **Ortega grapes are available at \$1per lb (US) through David Hisdal**

**11) Motion to Adjourn:** moved – Brian McConnell seconded Axel Motion passed

